United Nations S/2002/31

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 January 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Bhutan, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

02-22700 (E) 080402

Annex

Letter dated 3 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to enclose herewith a report from the Royal Government of Bhutan to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Om **Pradhan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) to combat international terrorism

Introduction

The Royal Government of Bhutan welcomes and supports the UN Security Council resolution 1373 adopted on September 28, 2001 to combat international terrorism and is committed to implementing the provisions of the resolution. The Royal Government will extend cooperation to the Counter Terrorism Committee established by the Security Council to monitor the implementation of the resolution 1373 and will provide all assistance that may be required by the Committee. The Royal Government will also continue to support the UN Security Council Resolutions 1269 and 1368.

The Royal Government of Bhutan unequivocally condemned the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States of America and called for an immediate end to such acts of terrorism, which threaten international peace and security. Like the rest of the civilized world Bhutan condemns all terrorists and their networks and firmly believe that the perpetrators of acts of terror including their leaders and organizations must be held accountable. Bhutan therefore fully supports the international consensus towards taking firm action against the evils of terrorism and believes that there should be no exception on ideological, political and religious or any other grounds in condemning terrorism or in countering it.

Bhutan is also a victim of terrorist activities committed by militants such as the outlawed ULFA/BODO organizations that have infiltrated from across the border with India.

Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373

Operative Paragraph 1
Sub-paragraph (a) (b) (c) (d)

Bhutan or any other organization in the country does not in any way support any terrorist activity. Following the September 11, 2001 attack on the USA the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan had advised the Ministry of Finance to inform all financial institutions in the country to check on all financial transactions that may be related to financing of terrorist activities. The financial institutions were provided with the list of persons and organizations that may be linked to terrorist acts as issued by the United States. The Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan has also drawn the attention of the financial institutions in the country to Article 59 of the Financial Institutions Act of Bhutan 1992, according to which the financial institutions in the country are required " to reveal to the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan any evidence of serious criminal activity either in the Kingdom or abroad which it suspects is associated with the use of a bank account or its proceeds, or if it suspects that investments are the products of a serious criminal activity either in the Kingdom or abroad".

The financial institutions have reported back that no transactions have ever been conducted pertaining to the above list and that they would continue to be vigilant while conducting financial transactions.

Operative Paragraph 2
Sub-paragraph (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g)

Bhutan has enacted in 1991, legislation to give effect to several multi-lateral instruments on suppression of terrorism. The 1991 legislation affords a basic legal framework for meeting the obligations under national, regional and international Conventions. The National Security Act of Bhutan that was brought out in 1992 has adequate provisions to criminalize acts of terror and to prosecute perpetrators of such acts.

Operative Paragraph 3
Sub-paragraph (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g)

Although the Judiciary in Bhutan is competent to deal with counter terrorism cases in accordance with national and international norms, till date it has not dealt with cases relating to counter terrorism. This is because there has been no history or recent developments of organized crime related to finance, narcotics, arms etc in the country.

However, Bhutan is prepared to cooperate and share information on reciprocal basis on terrorism related matters as and when needed.

Bhutan is already a party to a number of regional and international conventions relating to combating terrorism and hijacking: These are as follows:

SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism

International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, Tokyo, September 14, 1963

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, 1971

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents

Convention of International Civil Aviation, Chicago, 1944

UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance

International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism was signed by Bhutan on November 14, 2001 at the United Nations to demonstrate Bhutan's firm resolve to join the international efforts to curb the menace of terrorism. Bhutan became the 107th country to sign the convention.

Assistance

Under Para 4.1, states are invited to identify requirement of technical assistance in the preparation of their reports. Presently we do not require any assistance in the preparation of our report. However, given our limited experience in dealing with the subject, we may request for assistance if necessary.